

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST



ANGLICAN CHURCH

Diocese of Ottawa • Anglican Church of Canada

The Epiphany of the Lord

December 31, 2023

SUNG EUCHARIST ~ 10 a.m.

Book of Alternative Services page 185

Welcome to the Church of St. John the Evangelist

We acknowledge that we gather at St. John's on the traditional and unceded territory of the Algonquin Nation. May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.



This service is video recorded, streamed, and broadcast. By attending this service, you are agreeing to appear on video in our on-line worship offering through St. John's website and Facebook pages.



Hymns are from the [blue](#) Common Praise hymnbook unless otherwise indicated.

Today's service can be found on page 185 of the [green](#) Book of Alternative Services ([BAS](#)) located in the pew back in front of you.

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Prelude

Announcements

• Processional (Opening) Hymn

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- **Greeting**

BAS, p.185

- **Collect for Purity**

- **Gloria**

BAS, p. 186

Collect of the Day

Eternal God,
who by a star
led wise men to the worship of your Son.
Guide by your light the nations of the earth,
that the whole world may know your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian

and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72

(Read Responsively)

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

That he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills bring righteousness.

He shall defend the needy among the people; he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.

In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.

All kings shall bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.

For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, and the oppressed who has no helper.

He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in

accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. **Amen.**

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

• **Gradual Hymn:**

160

vss. 1 & 2 before the Gospel, vs. 3 & 4 after the Gospel

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

Gospeller: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel. '" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they

had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

- **Nicene Creed** **p. 188**
- **Prayers of the People** **p. 190**
- **Confession and Absolution** **p. 188**

The Peace

People may greet one another with the peace of Christ.

- **Offertory Hymn** **151**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Prayer over the Gifts

Gracious God,
accept the offering of your Church,
the hearts of your people
joined in praise and thanksgiving,

in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Amen.

- **Eucharistic Prayer 3**

p. 198

Sanctus (sung)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in
the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.**

- **The Lord's Prayer**

p. 211

- **Breaking of the Bread 5**

p. 213

Communion

All who are baptized are welcome to receive the bread and/or the wine of Holy Communion. At the Greeter's direction, please make your way to receive the elements if you wish to. All are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

- **Hymns during Communion**
145_

148, 146,

- **Hymn after Communion**

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Prayer after Communion

God of all the nations of the earth, guide us with your light. Help us to recognize Christ as he comes to us in this eucharist and in our neighbours. May we welcome him with love, for he is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

- **Doxology**

p. 214

The Blessing

- **Recessional Hymn**

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Dismissal

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: MON 7:15PM

We have completed our journey through the book, *Following the Call: Living the Sermon on the Mount Together*. It has been an incredible year reading and discussing Jesus' teachings through this book. We are taking a break and will start up again on January 15, 2024 reading *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*, by Joanna Weaver. If anyone would care to join, please let Nancy Fleming know so she can order a book for you. We meet on Mondays at 7:15-8:15 through zoom.

PINT & A PASSAGE: TUES 7PM

Join the conversation about the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday at Rob Roy's. Bring your Bible and an open mind.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Are now available to be picked up in the Canterbury Room.

CHURCH CALENDARS

2024 Church calendars are now available for pick up in the Canterbury Room. The cost is \$6.00.

2023 CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS

All 2023 Church contributions must be made **by January 5, 2024** and cheques post-dated for December 31, 2023. E-transfers must be deposited by December 31, 2023. Any contributions received after that date will be entered into 2024 contributions.

Pray K7A

Come and pray for Smiths Falls and area. The last Sunday of each month Christians from across Smiths Falls gather to pray for the town and area, to sing praise to God, and to encourage each other. **This month (December 31 at 7pm) we'll gather here at St. John's Parish Hall (2 George St., South).** We'll be giving thanks to God for the year that is ending, and seeking God's blessing for the year to come for the town and area. We will be handling music in the style of an Open Mic night or a good old fashioned Irish Ceilidh, so bring an instrument and/or some praise music you love.

OFFICE HOURS

Christmas and New Year holiday office hours:

Dec. 25 to 28 office closed;

Friday, Dec. 29 regular office hours;

Wednesday, Dec. 27 no Communion;

January 1, 2024, office closed

For pastoral emergencies, call Thomas (613) 207-6296.

Presiding Celebrant: Rev. Canon Jim Roberts
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Thomas Brauer

Reader & Intercessor: Nancy Fleming
Communion Assistants: Kevin Lewis & Kathy Porter
Greeters: Kathy Porter & Nancy Fleming
Readings for next Sunday, January 7, 2024 ~
Gen 1:1-5; Ps 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mk 1:4-11

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

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www.stjohn-smithsfalls.com

Follow us on Facebook at:

St-John-the-Evangelist-Anglican-Church-Smiths-Falls

Kathryn Rycroft – Parish Secretary
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 a.m. - 12 noon

Weekly Liturgies

Holy Eucharist – Sundays 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.* – Wednesdays 10 a.m.

*Sunday School offered at 10 a.m. from September – June

The Right Reverend Shane A. D. Parker – Bishop of Ottawa

The Reverend Dr. Thomas Brauer, Presiding Celebrant & Preacher

The Reverend Canon Brian Burrows – Honorary Assistant

The Reverend Canon Jim Roberts – Honorary Assistant

Garry Hoekstra – Organist
Emily Duberville – Sunday School Coordinator
emduberville@hotmail.com
Paul Howard – Rector's Warden 613-283-1172
Karen Bryan – People's Warden 613-284-8149
Garry Rodford – Deputy Warden 613-284-0488

Dan Willis – Deputy Warden 613-884-5095

Nancy Fleming – Envelope Secretary

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